

RON WYDEN  
OREGON

223 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5244  
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)

880 43993

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**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

**COMMITTEES:**

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

January 22, 2013

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
Building

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Executive Office  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Secretary and Director:

I am writing to request that the Administration include in its FY2014 budget request for the Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, stop-gap funding to continue U.S. financial assistance to the Government of the Republic of Palau.

In 1986, the U.S. enacted Public Law 99-658 that approved the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and the Republic of Palau. This Compact set forth governmental, economic, and security arrangements between the U.S. and this former district of the U.S.-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Compact granted the U.S. security rights vital to U.S. interests in the Western Pacific, and provided Palau with U.S. financial and program assistance through fiscal year 2009. The Compact also required a bilateral review to determine assistance beyond 2009 and to make any necessary revisions to the Compact.

Delays in concluding this follow-on agreement required Congress to provide stop-gap funding to Palau, at the 2009 levels, in the Continuing Resolutions for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. On September 3, 2010 the U.S. and Palau reached an Agreement to make necessary revisions to the Compact and to extend and phase-out financial assistance by the end of fiscal year 2023. This legislation, S. 343, was introduced on February 14, 2011.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the Administration and of committed Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, the 112th Congress was unable to enact legislation approving the new Agreement. During Congressional consideration, stop-gap funding was continued through fiscal years 2012 and the first half of 2013.

Recognizing the seating of a new Congress in the U.S. and a new government in Palau, I believe it is unreasonable to expect that a new Agreement will be approved before the beginning of fiscal

911 NE 11TH AVENUE  
SUITE 530  
PORTLAND, OR 97232-4169  
(503) 326-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE  
SUITE 2020  
EUGENE, OR 97401  
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING  
105 FR ST  
SUITE 201  
LA GRANDE, OR 97850  
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE  
310 WEST 6TH ST  
ROOM 118  
MEDFORD, OR 97501  
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING  
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE  
SUITE 107  
BEND, OR 97701  
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE  
SUITE 235  
SALEM, OR 97301  
(503) 589-4555

[HTTP://WYDEN.SENATE.GOV](http://wyden.senate.gov)

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year 2014. Accordingly, I urge that the Administration not assume approval of an Agreement this year, but instead include continued assistance to Palau of \$13,147,000 in its fiscal year 2014 budget request for the Department of the Interior.

I share your continuing interest in enacting legislation to strengthen the close and long-standing ties between the U.S. and Palau and to secure U.S. strategic interests in the region. However, we must acknowledge that there will be delays associated with the governmental transition taking place in both nations. Therefore, continued stop-gap funding is needed to assure economic and political stability in Palau,

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you on a long-term extension of financial assistance to Palau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Wyden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 19, 2012

The Honorable John McHugh  
Secretary  
United States Army  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5665  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary McHugh and Secretary Salazar,

There are some in Washington who would prefer that companies were prohibited from exporting coal from our shores and their objections have been vocal and causing delays and confusion. This is a troubling demand; one that negatively strikes our fragile economy and creates enormous uncertainty in the industry. Not unexpectedly many of these objectors are the same groups and individuals who also oppose the use of coal in manufacturing and electric generation.

Therefore, in recognition of the positives to our economy and for the working men and women of America, we are requesting that you take the necessary steps to assure the efficient and expeditious approval of permits necessary for the construction of new coal export facilities and the expansion of existing ones in the United States.

Coal has been the fastest growing energy source globally over the past decade and demand will continue to grow by over 50 percent over the next fifteen years. The reasons for the continuing rise in coal energy are not hard to see. Global urbanization, industrialization and innovation are driving an unprecedented demand for electrification—much of which is coal based—and infrastructure build-out requiring massive amounts of steel, cement and other materials—most of which is coal dependent.

With the largest coal reserves in the world, the U.S. is strategically positioned to participate broadly in the expanding seaborne coal market. Last year, the U.S. exported 107 million tons of coal, a 30 percent increase over 2010 and the highest levels since 1991. U.S. coal exports made a positive addition of more than \$16 billion to our balance of trade, provided revenues to communities across the American heartland, and generated tens of thousands high-wage coal, railroad, barge, port and support jobs throughout the mine-to-market supply chain.

Coal export infrastructure projects scheduled for the East, West and Gulf coasts will create tens of thousands more construction and permanent jobs across America. However, if the U.S. is to fully participate in the globally competitive seaborne coal market, we need a timely and efficient review process for permits and authorizations necessary to commence construction of new and expanded facilities. Delays will jeopardize our competitive position and sacrifice the more than 5,000 jobs the International Trade Administration estimates are supported by each \$1 billion in exports.

U.S. coal exports will also allow the developing world to continue its forward march toward energy access so vital to sustain global economic growth. According to the International Energy Agency, fully

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

half of the projected reduction in global poverty will be driven by coal. And, as these nations grow, so will their demand for all U.S. products and services.

We have a unique opportunity to boost the U.S. role as a global leader in seaborne coal trade. This creates tens of thousands of high-wage jobs, contributes positively to our balance of trade and raises the standard of living globally. Coal exports are poised to make a substantial contribution to the National Export Initiative goal of doubling exports over the next five years. To achieve this goal, coal export infrastructure projects must receive priority and timely attention. We cannot squander this opportunity with self-imposed trade barriers from delays and inefficient permit processing of coal export infrastructure projects. This is why we request that you direct your agencies to expedite their consideration of permits for coal export facilities.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

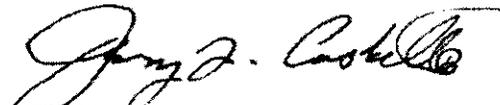
  
David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

  
Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress

  
Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress

  
Tim Holden  
Member of Congress

  
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

  
Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress

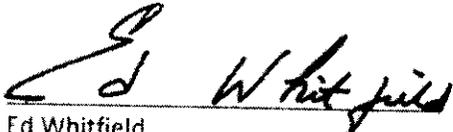
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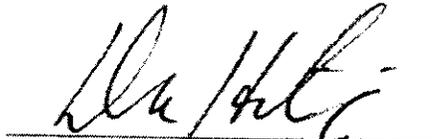
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

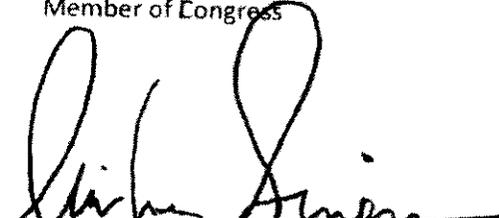
  
Cynthia M. Lummis  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress

  
Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress

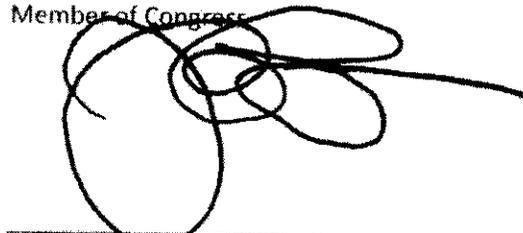
  
Mark Critz  
Member of Congress

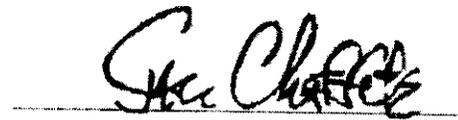
  
Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress

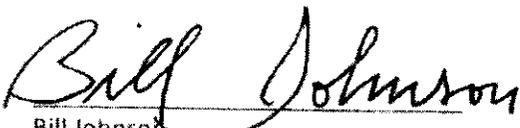
  
Michael K. Simpson  
Member of Congress

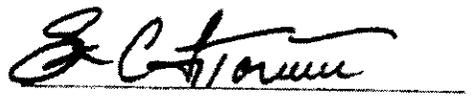
  
Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress

  
James B. Renacci  
Member of Congress

  
Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress

  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Steven C. LaTourette  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



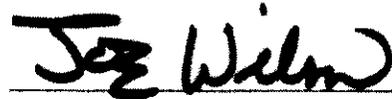
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress



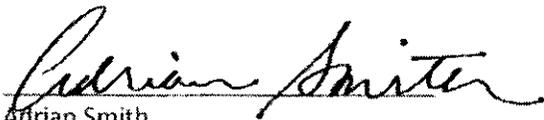
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress



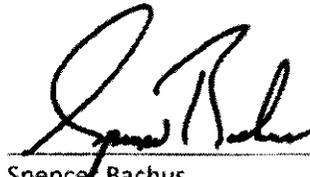
Tim Scott  
Member of Congress



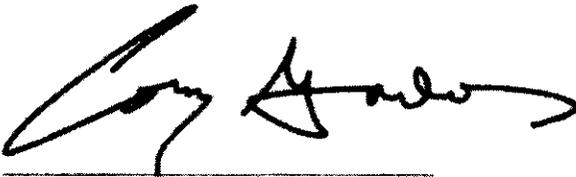
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



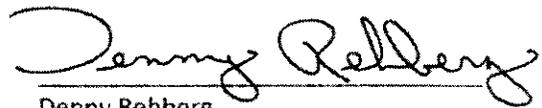
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress



Cory Gardner  
Member of Congress



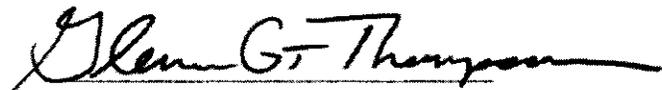
Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress



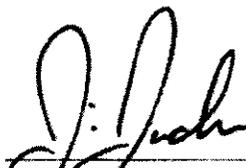
Raul Labrador  
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

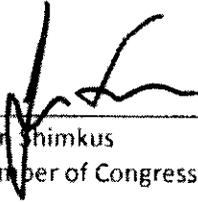
Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress



John Shimkus  
Member of Congress



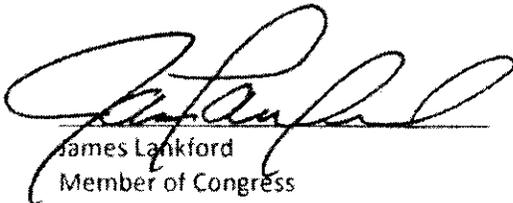
Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress



James Lankford  
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress

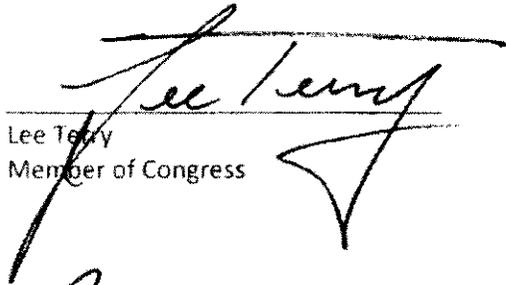


Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515



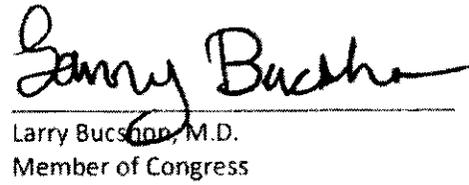
Lee Terry  
Member of Congress



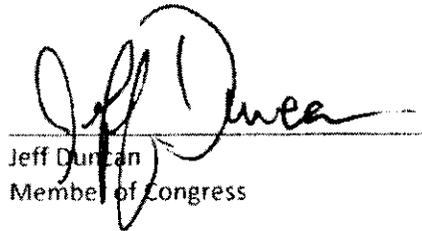
Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress



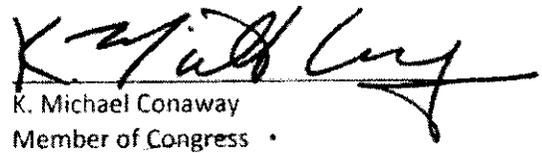
Francisco "Quico" Canseco  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



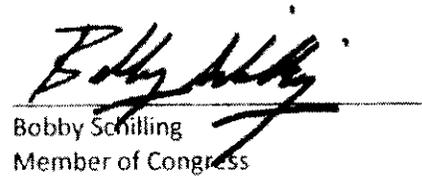
K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



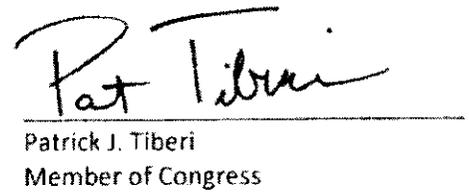
Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress



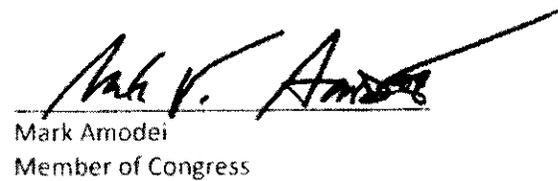
Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress



Bobby Schilling  
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 26, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We are writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 budget for the Department of the Interior to replace one of three aging aircraft currently in use by the United States Park Police (USPP) Aviation Unit.

The USPP Aviation Unit provides a range of services for the National Park Service (NPS). These include direct law enforcement support of US Park Police operations; air support of demonstrations and public gatherings, such as OccupyDC, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations on the National Mall, and Presidential inauguration; direct video link to joint operations with other federal law enforcement agencies; medevac of visitors in regional parks, including Shenandoah and Great Falls; conservation observation (bald eagle nesting along Potomac basin); video link up for NPS restoration activities, as occurred with the Washington Monument after the earthquake in 2011.

In addition, the USPP Aviation Unit is the only fully functional, multi-jurisdictional, multi-mission law enforcement aviation unit in the District of Columbia. It supports the Metropolitan Police Department, Maryland State Police Aviation Section, local law enforcement and emergency response agencies in Northern Virginia, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Capitol Police, the Department of State and other local, state and federal agencies. The Aviation Unit performs multiple missions, including criminal searches, surveillance, medevacs, search and rescue, escorts for the President of the United States and other dignitaries, and anti-terrorism missions. It is the only medevac, SWAT, and rescue-capable aircraft in the District of Columbia.

As you know, the Department of Interior recommends replacing any law enforcement aircraft with more than 5,000 hours of flight time. All three of the current helicopters in use by the USPP Aviation Unit exceed that recommendation: Eagle 1, Bell 412 EP has close to 6,000 flight hours since its purchase in 1999; Eagle 2, Bell 412 SP has over 8,000 flight hours since its purchase in 1989; and Eagle 3, Bell 206L3 has over 9,500 hours since 1983. Eagle 1 is the primary mission aircraft with Eagle 2 serving as backup. Due to the age of Eagle 3, it is used for training purposes and back up when necessary. These aircraft have performed well beyond the Department's recommendations and are in need of a replacement to continue their crucial missions.

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
September 26, 2012  
Page 2

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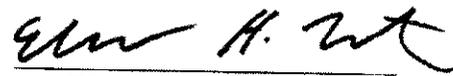
OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

We respectfully request you include a plan in the fiscal year 2014 budget for the Department of Interior to replace one of USPP's aging helicopters, ensuring its ability to assist local, state and federal agencies. While this request is significant in these fiscal times, it is absolutely vital to the USPP's ability to continue providing much needed air support throughout the Washington area.

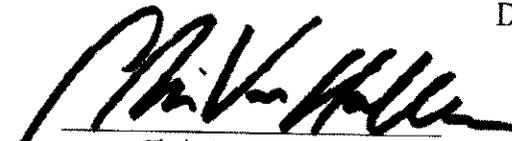
Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
James P. Moran

  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

  
Donna F. Edwards

  
Chris Van Hollen

  
Gerald E. Connolly

ESO 41362

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, CPA  
11TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
DEPUTY REPUBLICAN WHIP



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND  
RISK MANAGEMENT  
  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE ACQUISITION  
REFORM PANEL  
  
HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT  
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
  
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4311

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Mailstop 4428  
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

I am writing to request assistance on behalf of proud Texans who wish to see the home of two American Presidents elevated to national status and become part of the National Park System.

As you know from your recent visit to the town of Midland, Texas, the town welcomes many visitors to see the George W. Bush Childhood Home located at 1412 West Ohio Avenue. This home celebrates the lives of two presidents, two governors, and a first lady. The mission of this special home is unique as it expresses and showcases the history of the Bush Family.

The House was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and was purchased to become a museum, which had its official opening dedication on April 11, 2006. I salute the National Park Service for their outstanding role with this national program coordinating and supporting public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic resources worthy of preservation.

As a first step I am requesting that you authorize a "Reconnaissance Survey" to be performed by the National Park Service Intermountain Region. I am confident the survey would look at the national significance of the house and will determine if it meets the criteria to be elevated to national status and become part of the National Park System, Presidential Sites.

Sincerely,

*K. Michael Conaway*  
K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress

EXHIBIT TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

2012 SEP -4 PM 4:32

515285

**BROWNWOOD OFFICE:**  
BROWNWOOD CITY HALL  
501 CENTER AVENUE  
BROWNWOOD, TX 76801  
TOLL FREE: (888) 882-3811

**LLANO REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
COUNTY ANNEX  
104 WEST SANDSTONE  
LLANO, TX 78643  
PHONE: (325) 247-2826  
FAX: (325) 247-2678

**MIDLAND REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
CLAYDESTA CENTER  
6 DESTA DRIVE, SUITE 2000  
MIDLAND, TX 79705  
PHONE: (432) 687-2390  
FAX: (432) 687-0277

**ODESSA OFFICE:**  
CITY HALL  
411 W. 8TH ST., 5TH FLOOR  
ODESSA, TX 79761  
TOLL FREE: (888) 882-3811

**SAN ANGELO REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
O.C. FISHER FEDERAL BUILDING  
33 EAST TWONIG, SUITE 307  
SAN ANGELO, TX 76903  
PHONE: (325) 658-4010  
FAX: (325) 658-4014

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**  
2430 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-3605  
FAX: (202) 225-1783

ESO 38626

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 31, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

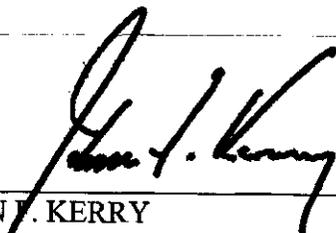
As the congressional delegation representing the New England National Scenic Trail (NET), we write to thank you for your ongoing commitment to maintain funding within the Park Service budget to support the National Scenic Trail System. The NET is one of these eleven unique and nationally-significant trails that offer the public amazing opportunities for exploration, exercise, and renewal in the outdoors.

A strong partnership between the National Park Service, the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, and the Appalachian Mountain Club is the foundation upon which the great successes of the NET are built. Together, these partner organizations leveraged over 9,000 volunteer hours in 2011 alone and continue to generate great excitement about the NET in the thirty-nine communities it traverses in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

As you know, the NET was supported in the Operations of the National Park Service budget at \$128,000 in the President's FY 2013 budget request. We hope to exceed that base level of operational support in the FY 2014 request, and hope that you will also devote \$1.5 million of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) allocations to projects along the NET. Your support is crucial to ensure a continued high-quality recreational experience for thousands of trail users.

We thank you again for your support and encourage your strong leadership in fostering appreciation and enjoyment of the National Trails System and America's great outdoors.

Sincerely,



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JOHN F. KERRY  
United States Senator



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JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN  
United States Senator



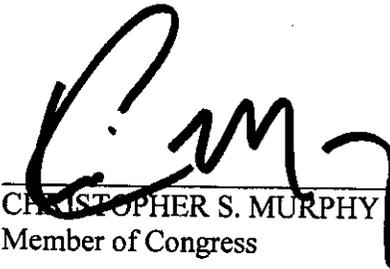
SCOTT P. BROWN  
United States Senator



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
United States Senator



JOHN W. OLVER  
Member of Congress



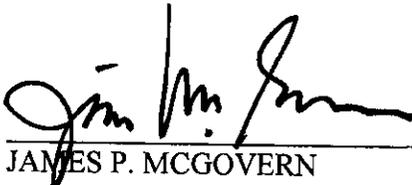
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY  
Member of Congress



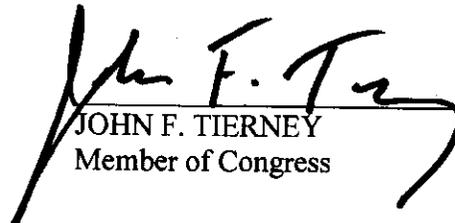
RICHARD E. NEAL  
Member of Congress



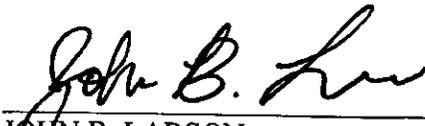
ROSA L. DELAURO  
Member of Congress



JAMES P. MCGOVERN  
Member of Congress



JOHN F. TIERNEY  
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON  
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress



NIKI TSONGAS  
Member of Congress

CC: Dennis Reidenbach, NPS Northeast Region Director

ESB 37626

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

April 6, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Thank you for your ongoing support for establishing the Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, NM, and for making the potential refuge a highlighted project in your America's Great Outdoors initiative. We are pleased that funds have been proposed for the project through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Bureau of Reclamation. However, we are concerned that these commitments are not sufficient to match non-federal funds in a way that ensures the overall success of the refuge. We therefore urge your continued attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to identify funding sources that can help bring this remarkable conservation opportunity to fruition.

As noted in the Fiscal Year 2013 DOI Budget in Brief, the America's Great Outdoors Progress Report and in the AGO 50-State Project Report, the Price's Dairy project at the Middle Rio Grande Refuge embodies the important national objectives of advancing conservation in our urban corridors, educating and inspiring youth in the outdoors, and conserving our nation's rivers and river heritage. It is strongly supported by the South Valley community as well as other New Mexico organizations and individuals, all of whom are anxious that this project get off the ground. For example, Bernalillo County has committed \$5 million to augment LWCF and other dollars needed to acquire the Price's Dairy property. Such support makes clear the community's commitment to the vision of the Middle Rio Grande refuge.

As you consider the funding needs at the Middle Rio Grande NWR, there are important factors to keep in mind:

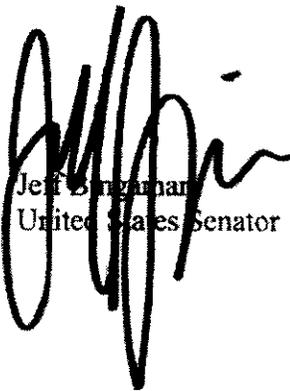
1. Bernalillo County's \$5 million in matching funds expires on September 28, 2012 unless federal funds are in place.
2. The landowner's current agreement with a non-governmental organization to keep the property off the market expires June 30, 2012, with a Phase I closing required by July 29, 2012.
3. The appraisal is due to the Office of Valuation Services no later than April 9, 2012, after which time the landowner will have an opportunity to review it. At that time, it will be extremely important that there be sufficient funds in place for

Phase I as well as a plan in place for future phases in order to demonstrate to the landowner that the project can succeed.

We understand that without a meaningful commitment of LWCF funds to this project, the successful establishment of the Middle Rio Grande NWR will have to rely on other federal grant programs such as Cooperative Endangered Species and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as well as others currently being identified. Preliminary inquiries about these funding sources indicate that they will not yield the amount needed to support the Price's Dairy property acquisition, even with other substantial funds in place, and so we remain concerned about how this project will move forward to a successful conclusion.

Your commitment to this project is clear, and we appreciate your continued attention to finding funds from the LWCF and other federal sources to match the county's contribution and other non-federal contributions. Given the urgency of the timeline outlined above, we hope you will do everything you can to demonstrate the necessary federal funding commitment to support this partnership effort. We look forward to working with you to accomplish the goal of pursuing open space protection that helps connect youth to the outdoors through the creation of the Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
Member of Congress

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TIMOTHY H. BISHOP  
1st District, New York

1133 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3628  
FAX: (202) 225-3143

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**Congress of the United States  
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January 26, 2012

www.house.gov/timbishop

2012 JAN 30 PM 3:53

Mr. Jeffrey D. Zients  
Acting Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**RE: Request for "New Tribes" funding for the Shinnecock Indian Nation in the President's FY 2013 Budget**

Dear Director Zients,

I am writing to follow up on my discussion yesterday with Sally Ericason, the Associate Director for Natural Resources Programs, concerning funding for the "New Tribes" account in President Obama's Budget Request for the Bureau of Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior for FY 2013. This account is critical to those Native American tribes with newly achieved federal recognition status like the Shinnecock Indian Nation located in my district and which was federally recognized by the Secretary of the Interior in 2010.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Ms. Ericason for taking the time to return my phone call and speak with me on the day following my request for information about the status of the "New Tribes" account. I am grateful for her prompt response and attention. I had also spoken earlier with Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Affairs for Indian Affairs, who also informed me that specific information about the funding levels in the President's budget request is embargoed until it is submitted to Congress next month.

It is my concern that the President's budget may reduce funding for the "New Tribes" account or specifically eliminate funding for the Shinnecock Indian Nation. If this is the case, and if such a decision has in fact been made prior to the release of the budget, I would respectfully request you to reconsider. I am hopeful that there is still sufficient time to reverse any such decision before the budget is submitted, particularly in light of the President's announcement earlier this week to delay its release until February 13th. Finally, a decision not to fund the Shinnecock Indian Nation would be unprecedented with respect to a newly recognized tribe.

As you can imagine, the Shinnecock Indian Nation invested considerable resources throughout the federal recognition process and have rightfully earned their eligibility for federal housing, infrastructure, and other critically important needs designed to preserve their unique cultural heritage and sovereignty.

As you know, funding in the "New Tribes" account is primarily used to establish tribal self-government and basic operations. Specifically, the funds are used to address immediate needs including infrastructure, administration, and organizational support. It is also used to provide tribal government training in federal policy and procedures, judicial systems and police protection, and have rightfully earned their eligibility for federal housing, infrastructure and other critical important needs designed to preserve. I therefore respectfully request that you fully fund the "New Tribes" account before the Administration concludes its work on preparing for the release of the President's FY 13 Budget Request. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Federal Government honors its commitment to the Shinnecock Indian Nation with respect to supporting federally recognized tribes.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Bishop  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc: Larry Echo Hawk, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Affairs



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

January 12, 2011

The Honorable Larry Echo Hawk  
Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Echo Hawk:

I write to bring to your attention the attached letter from Yurok Chairman Thomas O'Rourke in regards to the funding shortfall experienced by his tribe in Northern California. I am very sympathetic to his concern and I ask that you and your staff continue to work with the tribe to address this issue.

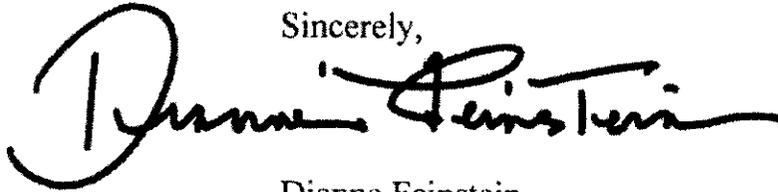
As you may be aware, my staff joined a meeting between the Tribe and BIA staff on December 1 of this year. At the meeting, I understand four issues were discussed:

1. A need for assistance with current fiscal year funding;
2. Reconsideration of annual base funding and the tribe's Annual Funding Agreement;
3. A reassessment of the Tribe's self-sufficiency funding pursuant to the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act; and
4. A request for assistance with tribal law enforcement.

I understand that a number of BIA staff in both the Washington and Regional Offices are already engaged in addressing these concerns and determining the appropriate levels of funding for the tribe. I want to acknowledge your staff's efforts to date, and encourage you to support their work with the Tribe in the coming months.

Thank you for your consideration of Chairman O'Rourke's requests and I look forward to working with you to resolve these funding shortages. I wish you and your family a very happy holiday and all the best in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

DF:dr

cc: Jodi Archambault Gillette, Deputy Assistant Secretary-Policy and Economic Development  
Mike Smith, Deputy Bureau Director, Field Operations  
Kevin Bearquiver, Deputy Bureau Director, Indian Services  
Amy Dutschke, Regional Director

DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN  
DELEGATE, VIRGIN ISLANDS

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT,  
CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS  
MEMBER, CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR  
WOMEN'S ISSUES  
ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-5501**

December 20, 2011

Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

The Virgin Islands National Park (VINP), located on the island of St. John, is one of the true treasures of our national park system. Over the past ten years, the Park Service and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) have worked to protect a property known as Estate Maho Bay. The project is now in its final phase, and I write to ask your assistance in ensuring that the acquisition of this major inholding be completed in FY 2012.

In your department's FY 2011 budget, funds were requested to complete this project, which joins the northern and southern sections of the park and ensures public access to the beach at Maho Bay. Given the constraints of the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, which dealt a severe cut to LWCF, the NPS faced significant challenges in providing needed funding to urgent projects. In a spirit of true partnership, TPL offered to accept half of the required funding (\$2.25 million instead of the full \$4.5 million) in order to enable the Park Service to meet other critical acquisition needs around the country. The expectation was that the final \$2.25 million would be provided in FY 2012.

Unfortunately, because the FY 2012 budget was prepared prior to the enactment of the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, the FY 2012 request for the Virgin Islands did not take into account the remaining need at Maho Bay. With the passage of the FY 2012 Omnibus Appropriations bill, the amount of money appropriated for land acquisition appears to be enough only to do the top two projects listed in the President's budget unless the National Park Service chooses to reprogram some of those funds. Given the very high ranking given to Estate Maho Bay in FY 2011 and the fact that the project is ready to close when funding becomes available, I hope that you will be able to ensure that sufficient funds are found to complete the Estate Maho Bay project at Virgin Islands National Park.

230 35167

- PLEASE RESPOND TO:
- WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1510 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1790  
FAX (202) 225-5517
  - DISTRICT OFFICES  
SUNSHINE MALL SPACE #204-205  
#1 ESTATE CANE  
FREDERIKSTED, VI 00840  
P.O. BOX 5980  
CRISTED, ST. CROIX, VI 00823  
(340) 778-5909  
FAX (340) 778-5111
  - 8000 NISKY CENTER, SUITE NO. 207  
ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS 00802  
(340) 774-4408  
FAX (340) 774-6033
  - #109 CONSTANT ENRIQUEZ  
CRUIZ BAY, ST. JOHN  
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS 00831  
(340) 776-1212

Letter to Secretary Salazar  
December 20, 2011  
Page 2.

You may be aware that an additional 18 acres, not initially included in the acreage made available to the Park Service, is being donated this year by The Trust for Public Land to the Virgin Islands National Park. The value of this donation is \$9 million. This is above and beyond the \$9 million in donated land value included in the four-phase 205-acre acquisition. The Park is receiving 223 acres worth at least \$27 million in return for only \$9 million in LWCF funding. This is an amazing example of private-public partnerships and the leveraging effect of LWCF dollars in achieving significant conservation outcomes.

We thank you for the attention and support you have always given to VI Park issues and respectfully request your further assistance to enable the Department of Interior and the National Park Service to keep their commitment to complete the acquisition of Estate Maho Bay in FY 2012. I hope that you will use whatever discretion is allowed by the final version of the Interior appropriations bill to fund this important project.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Christensen  
Member of Congress  
U.S. Virgin Islands

cc: Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 20, 2011

The Hon. Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We write to you today as a follow up to the March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 meeting your Department participated in regarding the fish mass marking programs the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Environmental Protection Agency are implementing in the Pacific Northwest, the Great Lakes and California. In 2003 Congress mandated that federal hatcheries mark their fish in order to be able to visibly determine the difference between hatchery and wild fish.

To date, the mass marking and hatchery reform initiatives are being successfully implemented in 12 states. At the March 31<sup>st</sup> briefing, all of the federal agencies and Tribes that were present testified to the importance of the mass marking and hatchery reform programs and the need for federal agencies to provide increased funding -- including equipment costs -- for the effort. We are asking that your Department include funding for mass marking in its budget request and that it is contained in the President's FY 13 budget. Considering the budgetary challenges we face, it is important to recognize the \$7 billion economic impact of the Great Lakes fisheries along with an additional \$3.1 billion in economic activity created by the California and Pacific Northwest fisheries. The mass marking initiative is essential to the recovery of ESA-listed salmon in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California where overwhelming scientific data suggests that the survival of wild fish is improved greatly by reducing the number of hatchery fish on the spawning grounds. In the Great Lakes, mass marking is critical to the effective management and restoration of the ecosystem. Thousands of jobs depend on the recovery of these fisheries and mass marking is a cost-effective tool to improve the health of these fish and maintain the affiliated jobs.

We would request that you put the necessary funding for capital along with operation and maintenance for this effort in the FY 13 budget request, and details of this need are enclosed. In the Pacific Northwest, funding for this effort is through the Fish and Wildlife Service. In California the money is provided by the Bureau of Reclamation. For the Great Lakes, mass marking funds have been made available through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with supplementary funds added through the EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

In order to maintain the momentum of the mass marking program and its critical role in fisheries management, we respectfully request that you ensure this program is funded in your FY 13 budget submittal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



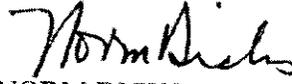
CARL LEVIN  
United States Senator



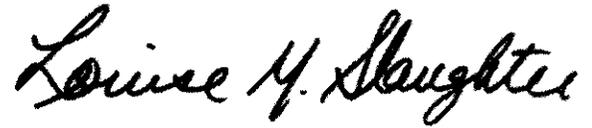
DEBBIE A. STABENOW  
United States Senator



JOHN D. DINGELL  
Member of Congress



NORM DICKS  
Member of Congress



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 18, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary, Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Jacob Lew  
Director, The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Secretary Salazar and Director Lew:

We are writing regarding funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Multinational Species Conservation Fund (MSCF) in the President's Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2013. We recognize both the significant limitations of the current budget climate as well as the vital role these small but important programs play in preventing the extinction of some of our planet's most imperiled wildlife, as well as protecting America's interests around the globe. We respectfully request the FY 2013 funding request include a minimum of \$10 million for the five species funds of the MSCF.

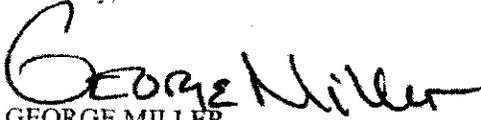
Over the past two decades, U.S. government funding for the MSCF has leveraged up to four times as much in matching funds from corporations, non-governmental organization and other national governments for the conservation of wild tigers, elephants, rhinos, great apes, and marine turtles in their native habitat. In the past five years alone, MSCF programs have helped over 75 countries sustain wildlife populations by controlling poaching, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and protecting essential habitat.

In addition to ensuring the survival of some of our planet's most iconic wildlife, the MSCF also helps to create greater security and economic opportunity for local communities in the developing world. By conserving priority species, these programs help sustain large areas of wilderness that are home to globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services, including watersheds upon which millions of people rely. By promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty in some of the world's most troubled regions, these programs help to alleviate regional conflicts, enhance the national security of the United States and bolster America's global leadership.

These highly popular and effective programs have a long-standing tradition of strong bipartisan support as well as broad-based stakeholder support. We urge you to include a minimum of \$10 million for MSCF in the FY 2013 Budget Request.

Thank you for your consideration.

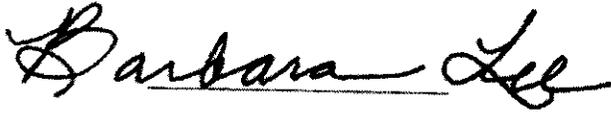
Sincerely,

  
GEORGE MILLER  
Member of Congress

  
DON YOUNG  
Member of Congress

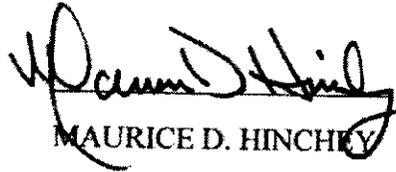
  
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI  
Member of Congress

  
MICHAEL GRIMM  
Member of Congress



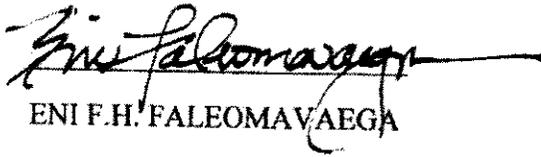
BARBARA LEE

Member of Congress



MAURICE D. HINCHEY

Member of Congress



ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

Member of Congress



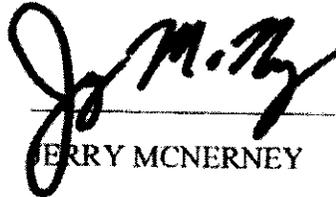
LOIS CAPPS

Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA

Member of Congress



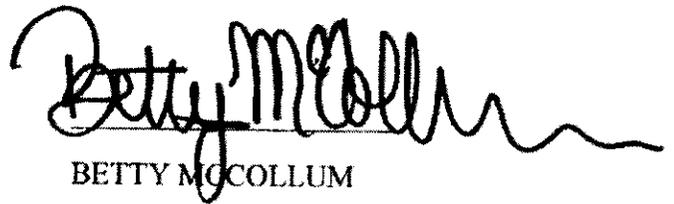
JERRY MCNERNEY

Member of Congress



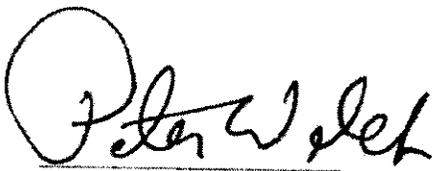
JIM MORAN

Member of Congress



BETTY MCCOLLUM

Member of Congress



PETER WELCH

Member of Congress



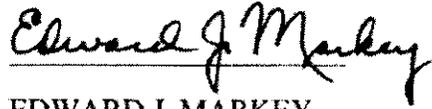
SAM FARR

Member of Congress



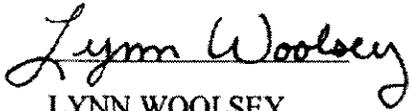
EDOLPHUS TOWNS

Member of Congress



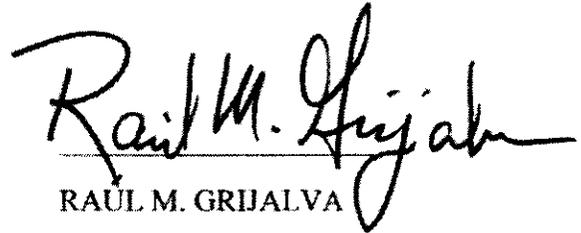
EDWARD J. MARKEY

Member of Congress



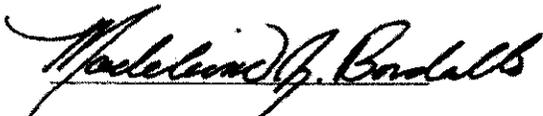
LYNN WOOLSEY

Member of Congress



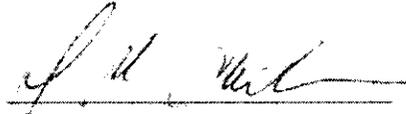
RAUL M. GRIJALVA

Member of Congress



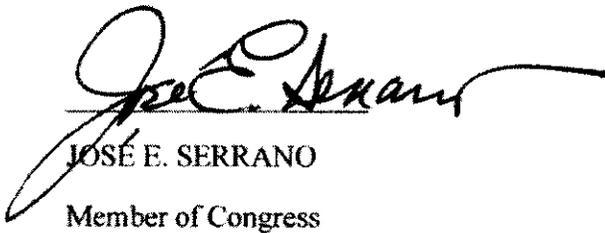
MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

Member of Congress



DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

Member of Congress



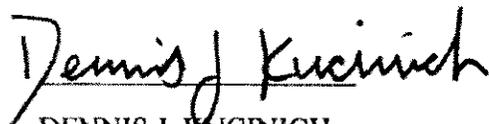
JOSÉ E. SERRANO

Member of Congress



MAZIE K. HIRONO

Member of Congress



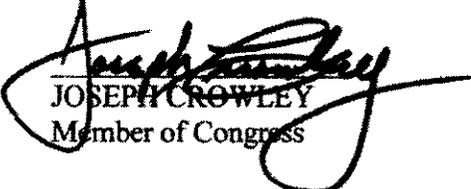
DENNIS J. KUCINICH

Member of Congress



SILVESTRE REYES

Member of Congress

  
JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress

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JON TESTER  
MONTANA

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SUITE 724  
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202-224-2644

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-866-554-4403

INTERNET:  
<http://tester.senate.gov/contact>

# United States Senate

November 7, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary LaHood and Secretary Salazar,

Reliable transportation systems are critical to economic development, service delivery and job creation in Indian Country. The United States has a trust responsibility to ensure that reservation communities have adequate resources to build and maintain those systems. Your agencies are tasked with carrying out that responsibility, and I appreciate your dedication to improving life in Indian Country. However, as a member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA), tribal leaders and transportation experts have brought to my attention what appears to be serious unfairness with how the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Federal Lands Highway office (FLH) invests Indian Reservation Roads program (IRR) resources. Below, please find a few detailed questions about your agencies respective roles in this important mission. I appreciate your prompt attention to these inquiries.

I was happy to see that in his Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request for IRR, President Obama proposed that you direct at least 50 percent of the funding to BIA and tribally owned roads ("BIA system"), as opposed to state, county and local roads. Can you please confirm that in FY 2012, you will allocate IRR funding under this proposed method? Can you also please confirm that you will apply the 50 percent to existing, rather than proposed roads? And finally, can you assure me that 50 percent will not become the ceiling? I am greatly concerned about only investing half of IRR funding on existing reservation roads.

Since I came to the Senate in 2007, American Indian tribes have disagreed on how to fairly distribute IRR funds. At an SCIA field hearing I chaired in Polson, Montana in October 2010 and again during a hearing in September 2011, Transportation and Interior witnesses stated that the existing funding formula is the result of a negotiated rule-making committee. However, tribal witnesses said several important changes were made to those regulations after the rule-making committee completed its work. And those changes benefit some tribes much more than others.

BIA and FLH witnesses also testified that the IRR Program Coordinating Committee (IRRPC) will address any remaining inequities. However, it is my understanding that neither the IRRPC, nor the BIA or FLH have made any progress in making the current system fairer for large, land-based tribes. Instead, things are getting worse for them.

Large tribes report that in 2006, 76 percent of the roads in the BIA's IRR inventory were BIA system roads, many of which are dirt or gravel and generate less money under the current formula. The remaining were generally State and County roads. In 2008, the BIA portion fell to

BOZEMAN  
(406) 586-4450

BUTTE  
(406) 723-3277

GLENDRE  
(406) 365-2391

GREAT FALLS  
(406) 452-9585

HELENA  
(406) 449-5401

KADISPELL  
(406) 257-3360

BILLINGS  
(406) 252-0550

MISSOULA  
(406) 728-3003

28 percent. And in 2011, that number has dropped to about 20 percent. This decrease comes at a time when Congress increased funding for IRR from \$275 million to \$450 million.

One example of diverting these critical funds comes from Eastern Oklahoma. IRR funding for tribes there increased from \$12 million to \$55 million after the BIA changed its regulations and Congress increased funding. Apparently, the increase comes from claiming state and county roads including those with a large volume (Vehicle Miles Traveled or VMT). Another example comes from Alaska, where funds have increased from \$9 million to \$44 million including thousands of miles of "proposed" roads. However, witnesses at SCIA hearings have testified that many of the proposed roads will likely never be built, yet they receive large amounts of funding year after year. These concerns have also expressed in two recent reports by the Interior Inspector General and by large tribes around the country.

By comparison, the Rocky Mountain Region that includes Montana has decreased from \$23 million to \$16.5 million, during the same time when Congress increased overall funding by more than 60 percent. As you know, the reservations in Montana are some of the largest in the country with thousands of miles of roads. The IRR program is the only source of funding for their roads, whereas state and county roads can access funds from the governments that own them. Without regular maintenance, those roads don't get better with time, given the uniquely harsh toll of winter weather conditions in the northern tier. If funding for northern-tier tribal roads shrinks even as Congress provides a 60 percent increase, the formula certainly appears to be broken and/or abused.

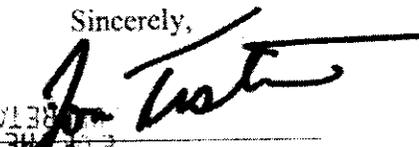
I am concerned about diverting IRR money to improve state and county roads because the United States has a unique trust responsibility to American Indian tribes that it does not have to states and counties. And allowing some tribes to receive taxpayer money for projects unlikely to ever be built is waste, fraud and abuse.

Allowing some participants to divert funds intended to uphold our trust responsibility endangers the lives of tribal members who travel on bad roads, restricts the delivery of vital public services, and dampens job creation and economic growth where poverty levels are many times the national average. I hope you will join me in adjusting the administration of these vital resources to ensure they are serving the needs of those they were designed for.

Attached, please find a recent letter I received from the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council. It contains some detailed questions about this incredibly complex formula. I am very interested to see your answers and look forward to your prompt reply.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Tester

United States Senator

LS8905

Enclosures



## Montana & Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council

175 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1003, Billings, MT 59101  
Website <http://www.mtwytlc.org>

Ph: (406) 252-2550 Fax (406) 254-6355  
Email: [belcourt@mtwytlc.com](mailto:belcourt@mtwytlc.com)

November 2, 2011

Honorable Jon Tester  
SH-724 Hart Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester,

As you know, securing a more equitable distribution of the \$450 million allocated each year by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) via the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program is a priority for the member Tribes of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council. These funds are of course transferred from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to the BIA annually.

To that end, in an attempt to shed more light on the IRR formula, its history and present application, we have drafted the attached series of questions. We would appreciate your help in securing answers to these questions from the BIA and the FHWA. Some of the questions are technical and others less so but securing precise answers, as soon as possible, will help us move forward in our understanding of an issue that is immensely important to Tribes not only in the large land base Tribes in Montana and Wyoming, but across much of the west. The answers should also provide important information to the Congress as you and your colleagues deliberate on this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Belcourt  
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Max Baucus  
Hon. John Barrasso  
Hon. Mike Enzi  
Tribal Chairs & Presidents

## QUESTIONS FOR BIA & FLHO

Please provide precise answers to each question

- The BIA/Tribal Road System is the primary responsibility of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Transportation.

*Is it correct that in 2005 76% of the Indian Reservation Road formula miles was driven by BIA System roads and that in 2011 that the percentage of the IRR formula miles going to BIA System roads has been reduced to approximately 20%?*

- The Indian Reservation Roads Program mileage has grown from approximately 62,000 miles in 2004 142,000 miles in 2011. The majority of the increase is from the addition of State, County and Proposed Road miles into the IRR system.

*Provide a list of the top 25 tribes whose Indian Reservation Road inventories have grown the most since 2005.*

- a) What was the actual dollar growth in their IRR funds by tribe?*
  - b) Of those tribes, and on a tribe by tribe basis, what percentage of the IRR inventory growth was for roads categorized as BIA System roads?*
  - c) Of those tribes, and on a tribe by tribe basis, what percentage of roads added to those IRR inventories was for county, state or federally (non-BIA) owned roads?*
  - d) Of those tribes, and on a tribe by tribe basis, what percentage of the added IRR inventory miles was for roads "accessing" a reservation? What were the dollar figures added by such roads?*
  - e) What was the work actually performed on those county, state roads accessing reservations?*
  - f) Of those tribes, and on a tribe by tribe basis, what percentage of roads added to the inventory miles was for "proposed" roads?*
- Question 10 of 25 CFR 125 subparagraph (3) indicates that any facility that is eligible for Federal funding may be added to the IRR inventory if the public authority responsible for the facility provides certification of maintenance responsibility and its inability to provide funding for the project.
    - a) How many miles of off-reservation roads have been added to the IRR Inventory based on a state or county certifying that they do not have the funds to maintain those roads? Who are the top 20 tribes that have added miles to their IRR inventories as a result of such certification and what has been the dollar amounts they have received as a result?*
    - b) The changes proposed to Question 10 by the BIA and FHWA will prohibit tribes from adding roads to their IRR inventories by a state certifying that it is unable to maintain the road as this violates 23 USC 116. Since there were roads that were added to tribal inventories under the certification process now deemed to be illegal, will those added roads be taken out of the IRR Inventory?*
  - It appears that there has been a significant increase in proposed roads added to the IRR inventory since 2005.

- a) *How many miles of "proposed" roads have been added to the IRR inventory in the past five years?*
  - b) *What quality assurance measures does the BIA have in place to ensure that the proposed roads inventory data is true and accurate?*
  - c) *Who are the top tribes or BIA Regions adding such proposed roads to their inventory and how much money have they received for such proposed road?*
  - d) *Of those same roads added as proposed, what assurance has been provided that a project can actually be constructed?*
  - e) *Of those roads added as proposed, how many miles have actually been built?*
- Pursuant to federal law, can an Indian tribe include an interstate highway otherwise maintained by the state to its IRR inventory? Has a tribe or tribes ever received funds for such a highway and if so how much money have such tribes received?
  - SAFETEA-LU increased the IRR funding from \$275 million to \$450 million (approximately 64%).
    - a) *What is the funding percentage increase to on-reservation "BIA System roads?"*
  - 23 U.S.C. 120(l) stipulates that the use of Federal Lands Highway Program funds can be used to pay the non-Federal share of the cost of any project that is funded under this title or chapter 53 of title 49.
    - a) *Does this provision restrict the use of FLHP funds to the non-Federal share on any project that is funded with Federal funds?*
    - b) *If yes, how under the proposed changes to Question 10 can a State or County road generate funding at 100% if the expenditure is restricted to the non-Federal share?*
    - c) *Can a State or County road generate funds if there is no planned project on the route?*
    - d) *Other than through the unique circumstances that existed in Oklahoma and Alaska, prior to the issuance of 25 USC 170, how many state and county roads were funded at 100%? If there were none, how then can Class 3 and Class 5 State and County roads be funded at 100% under the Q10 fix? (Note that Q10 (1) stipulated that a State or Country road had to be funded at 100% prior to the issuance of 25 USC 170 in order to be funded at 100% after the issuance of the rule.)*
  - The Evaluation Report of the Department of the Interior Inspector General dated February 01, 2010 identified "significant inaccuracies in roads inventories that affect the ability of bureaus to identify needs correctly and inefficiencies in the processes that bureaus use to prioritize their needs." Further the report identified that the BIA lacked sufficient safeguards to adequately detect misuse and mismanagement of funds.
    - a) *How have these findings affected the funding for BIA System Roads.*
    - b) *What quality assurance measures does the BIA have in place to ensure that inventory data is true and accurate?*
  - The majority of State and County roads in the IRR inventory are claimed by Tribes as providing "access" to their reservation or trust lands.
    - a) *What criteria does the BIA use to include access roads into the IRR inventory?*
    - b) *Does an access road have to physically connect to a reservation boundary or tribal trust land?*
    - c) *How far can an access road extend from the boundary of a reservation or a parcel of trust land?*

- Some of the main Guiding Principles the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee used to develop the Tribal Transportation Allocation Methodology (TTAM) were:

- 1) Avoid major percentage reduction of funds from particular tribes.
- 2) Devise a system that is accurate, verifiable, and uniformly applied.
- 3) To make it easier for small tribes to participate in the program without making major reallocations of funds from larger Tribes.
- 4) Provide greater weight to BIA and Tribally owned public facilities by limiting, for Relative Need Distribution Factor purposes, most other IRR-eligible facilities to the amount of local matching funds needed for the project.

- a) *Have these guiding principles of the Negotiated Rule Making Committee been adhered to in the implementation of TTAM?*
- b) *If so, why has IRR funding to BIA System roads been reduced so significantly? How do such reductions not violate the first principle above?*

JEFF BINGAMAN  
NEW MEXICO

ESO 33866

703 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3102  
(202) 224-5521  
IN NEW MEXICO - 1-800-443-8658  
TDD (202) 224-1792  
senator\_bingaman@bingaman.senate.gov

## United States Senate

October 31, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I received the enclosed letter from the Pueblo of Nambe regarding funding for the Bureau of Reclamation in order to complete the dredging of the Nambe Reservoir and the construction of a sediment trap. This construction is necessary due to the impacts of the Pacheco Wildfire on the headwaters of the Nambe Reservoir. I would appreciate your assistance in responding to Governor Mirabel, and I hope that DOI will work with the Pueblo to find funding for these efforts. Please respond directly to my constituent and provide Casey O'Neill in my office with a copy of your response.

I greatly appreciate DOI's attentiveness to the Pueblo of Nambe and its efforts to complete the dredging of the Nambe Reservoir.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator

JB/co

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SENATE

2011 NOV 15 AM 11:38

506780



**Pueblo of Nambe  
Office of the Governor**

Rt. 1 Box 117-BA Nambe Pueblo, New Mexico 87506  
Main: (505) 455-2036, Governor's Office: (505) 455-4429,  
Fax: (505) 455-2038

October 04, 2011

Honorable, Senator Jeff Bingaman  
Suite 101, 119 East March Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Re: Sediment Catchment and Dredging of Nambe Reservoir

Dear Honorable Senators:

This is a special request for emergency funding to assist the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) complete the dredging of Nambe Reservoir and pay the cost overruns encountered by BOR in the construction of the sediment trap. This funding is being requested to mitigate the post fire impacts associated with the Pacheco Wildfire that burned in excess of 10,000 acres back in June and July 2011, all within the headwaters of Nambe Reservoir and over 95 percent of this within the boundaries of the Pecos Wilderness Area (PWA). The PWA is administered by the U. S. Forest Service (FS) out of the Espanola Ranger District.

To date, BOR is the only federal agency to come forth and truly assist. BOR has gone way above and beyond their fiscal responsibility to assist with actual funds in the construction of the sediment trap and dredging of the reservoir. These two treatments were prescribed by the BIA Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team working on the Pacheco Wildfire.

BOR is the only Agency who logistically has the expertise and proper equipment to do this kind of work. No one could have done to this point what BOR has accomplished in such little time and with very little money committed. Furthermore, BOR has provided an immense array of in-kind services in engineering, design, plans, and use of their heavy equipment. An independent contractor would have cost in our best estimate, in excess of one (1) million dollars to perform this same work.

With that said, BOR has to be applauded for their "gesture of good will" to help the three Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque and San Ildefonso including the entire valley of Pojoaque who are

ESO 33050

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Salazar:

This year we have seen unprecedented expanses of public and private lands burn in wildfires. The cost of these fires has been millions of dollars, thousands of citizens evacuated, and extensive erosion and flooding. These catastrophic fires are a result of ecologically degraded and overstocked forests. Restoration of our forests on a landscape scale is urgently needed. The Southwest Forest Restoration Institutes (SWERI) have already been recognized as a key component in establishing science-based landscape scale restoration strategies across the Intermountain West. We urge you to include adequate funding in the President's Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) Budget for the institutes to continue to confront the forest health issues in the southwest head-on.

In 2004 SWERI was established by a bipartisan Act of Congress (PL 108-317) to help provide the biophysical and socio-economic science needed to overcome the barriers to forest restoration. The three institutes that form SWERI, the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWR) at New Mexico Highlands University, the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) at Colorado State University and, the Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) at Northern Arizona University, provide a unique program of work that bridges the gap between academic knowledge and applied on-the-ground action. The institutes work in concert with the major initiatives of this administration by advancing restoration at multiple scales on all lands by using collaboration, best available science, and adaptive management. The institutes' work also aligns with Congressional priorities by actively supporting the implementation of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the Forest Landscape Restoration Act and efforts that will reduce fire suppression costs.

The Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act authorized up to \$15 million per year for the three Institutes. Each year the Institutes work cooperatively with federal agencies and with stakeholders involved in forest restoration and wildland fire management to identify a relevant program of work. The program is reviewed by the leadership of the appropriate federal and state agencies to guarantee that their decision support needs are met. Based on the last five years of institute work plans, we request that you include \$5 million in the President's Budget for the work planned for the three institutes in the 2013 Fiscal Year.

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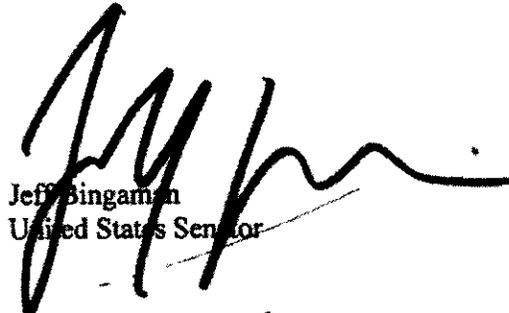
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The Institutes fill a crucial role in our efforts to restore forests, protect watersheds, avoid unwanted wildfires and improve the economic vitality of rural communities. We appreciate your continued support for forest restoration in the Southwest and urge you to fund the Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act in the Administration's forthcoming budget request for Fiscal Year 2013.

Sincerely,



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



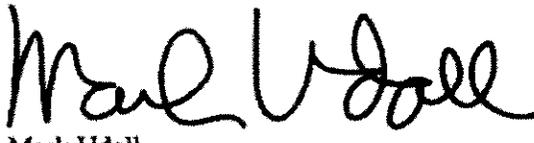
Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



John McCain  
United States Senator



Jon Kyl  
United States Senator



Mark Udall  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

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2011 OCT 25 PM 4:48  
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RON WYDEN  
OREGON

223 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5244  
(202) 224-1280 (TDD)

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

ES0 32731

COMMITTEES:  
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

October 11, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

505899

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We are writing to urge you to support the Table Rocks acquisition project near Medford, Oregon, as an America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative, and support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) request for funding of this critical project in the Fiscal Year 2013 President's budget.

The Table Rocks project represents an historic opportunity for the Administration, BLM, and the public to protect all the remaining private lands on the summits of these historic cultural and natural landmarks.

This project captures the goals of the President's AGO initiative.

- **Youth Engagement.** Table Rocks engage youth: already over 4,000 schoolchildren use the Table Rocks as an outdoor classroom each year, connecting with nature and learning about their natural and cultural heritage.
- **Tribal Heritage.** Table Rocks is a significant tribal heritage site, and the start of the 263-mile Trail of Tears.
- **Urban Access.** The project will provide additional urban access to the outdoors, as over 40,000 visitors annually enjoy the Table Rocks, twin horseshoe-shaped mesas perched above the Rogue River in southern Oregon.

The Table Rocks project has gathered strong local support, including letters of support from the Jackson County Commissioners, the Superintendent of the Southern Oregon Education Service District, the Curator of the Camp White Military Museum, and Audubon Society of Portland. In addition, Table Rocks is Governor Kitzhaber's a top priority for the AGO initiative, and the project was ranked as the top priority for Oregon BLM.

The Jackson County Commissioners recently stated, "The Table Rocks are landmarks that define the Rogue Valley and Jackson County, and ensuring these valuable resources are preserved for current and future generations is important to the citizens of Jackson County." With your help, we look forward to the day when we all can celebrate the final protection of the Table Rocks.

We appreciate your consideration for this important project.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

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2011 OCT 17 9:12 AM  
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U.S. SENATE

1220 SW 3RD AVE  
SUITE 585  
PORTLAND, OR 97204  
(503) 726-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE  
SUITE 2020  
EUGENE, OR 97401  
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING  
105 HR ST  
SUITE 201  
LA GRANDE, OR 97850  
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE  
310 WEST 6TH ST  
ROOM 118  
MEDFORD, OR 97501  
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING  
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE  
SUITE 107  
BEND, OR 97701  
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE  
SUITE 285  
SALEM, OR 97301  
(503) 589-4555

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**CANDICE S. MILLER**  
10TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
226 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2105  
FAX: (202) 225-1189

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
4870 VAN DYKE AVENUE  
SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MI 48317  
(586) 997-5010  
FAX: (586) 997-5013



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2210**

July 7, 2011

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
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AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND  
GLOBAL WARMING

Christopher Mansour  
Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Mail Stop 6242  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Mansour,

Following a forest fire that swept through Michigan's Thumb region in 1881, a series of petroglyphs carved into sandstone were discovered in the woods outside Cass City in my congressional district. It's estimated that these carvings, over one hundred in number, were carved between 400 and 1,000 years ago, and are a direct link into Michigan's past and those who inhabited the region long before settlers arrived.

The site was purchased from private owners by the Michigan Archaeological Society in 1966, and was subsequently deeded to the state of Michigan. While the state has constructed a fence and wooden canopy over the petroglyphs, they have done little to protect the site and exposure to the elements and vandalism have damaged the petroglyphs considerably. More secure protection is necessary to preserve these timeless artifacts.

The state is working to raise the revenue necessary to construct a permanent, secure facility to protect the site, however, the sandstone into which the petroglyphs are carved are easily damaged and erode constantly. Additionally, a dispute between the state and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe over who should own and manage the site has prevented work from being done.

The Sanilac Petroglyphs are the only site of its kind in Michigan, and one of the strongest links we have to Michigan's Native American heritage. I request your assistance in preserving this landmark.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Candice S. Miller  
Member of Congress

ESD 30372

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 7, 2011

503441

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

In Yosemite National Park, the Mariposa County Unified School District has been fortunate to have received financial assistance from Public Law 109-131 (extended by Public Law 111-88) for the past several years. Educating our children and implementing this important program in Yosemite National Park are a very high priority for us and we therefore request your assistance in continuing to make funding available to support these schools.

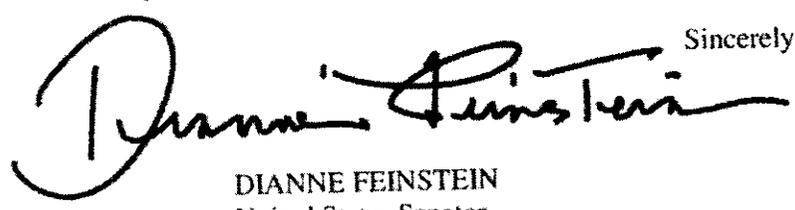
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

As you know, Mariposa County Unified School District operates Yosemite National Park Valley Elementary School and Yosemite National Park El Portal Elementary School, which are critical to the high quality education necessary to support the communities surrounding and within Yosemite National Park. Operating these schools has always been challenging in a remote National Park environment; yet this year there are even greater financial challenges to provide a high quality education for these students. In recent years, these elementary schools have faced significant hardships and have had to cut down on educational services and faculty just to stay open.

The Mariposa County Board of Education and Trustees are looking at various options to best serve these students with available funding. As it explores various options on how to best serve students in the district, it has become abundantly clear that supplemental funding from the Department of Interior under the existing authorization will be critical to support these schools in the 2011-2012 school year. We are therefore requesting \$400,000 to support this effort as authorized by Public Law 109-131 and which can be made available under the Cooperative Agreement between the National Park Service and the Mariposa County Unified School District.

Without this critical funding, these schools are in danger of being closed. These vitally important schools serve approximately 100 students of park service employees. If these schools are closed, these students would be forced to commute more than 90 miles roundtrip each day to attend school. It is imperative that these schools receive this much needed funding so that they can continue to educate current and future generations of Yosemite National Park's youth. We appreciate your ongoing support for Yosemite schools and your assistance in this regard.

Sincerely,



DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
United States Senator



JEFF DENHAM  
United States Representative

cc: Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior  
Mr. Don Neubacher, Superintendent, Yosemite National Park  
Mr. Aaron Rosander, Superintendent, Mariposa County Unified School District

BO 29357

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 24, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240-0001

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As the Department of Interior develops its spending plan under the 2011 Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, we urge you to allocate \$2 million to the Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Program to continue the program's critical grants and technical assistance.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network (CBGN) is a program that connects those who live in the Bay watershed to the natural, cultural and historic resources of the Bay and thereby encourages individual stewardship of these resources. Since 2000, the Gateways program has grown to include more than 150 sites and over 1500 miles of established and developing water trails in six states and the District of Columbia. Through grants to parks, volunteer groups, wildlife refuges, historic sites, museums, and water trails, the Network ties these sites together to provide meaningful experiences and foster citizen stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay.

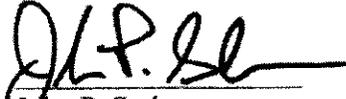
We commend you for including \$2 million in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012 budget requests for the Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Program under the National Recreation and Preservation account. In the final 2011 budget, Congress provided a \$6.9 million increase for the National Recreation and Preservation account. We believe this increase should enable the Department to allocate funding for the continued implementation of the Gateways program.

The Chesapeake Gateways and Watertrails Program is an essential tool for achieving the goals of President Obama's Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order #13508. In addition, the Gateways program was highlighted in the America's Great Outdoor report as a national model. The Gateways program enjoys strong support from the region's Governors, local elected officials, and other Bay stakeholders as a cost-effective strategy for engaging citizens and communities in efforts to restore and protect the Bay.

For a very modest investment, the Gateways program helps foster the citizen stewardship that will be necessary to advance Bay cleanup and maintain the gains we hope to make in the coming years. By funding the Gateways program and providing access to the beautiful sites that make up the network, we can help develop the next generation of environmental stewards, which is one of the best ways to truly "Save the Bay."

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with the Department of Interior on issues related to the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
Steny Hoyer  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Moran  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service

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2011 MAY 31 PM 3:41

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ESD 28218

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

500076

April 19, 2011

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2011 APR 27 PM 11:2

CLERK OF SENATE  
SECRETARIAT

Secretary Ken Salazar  
Department Of The Interior  
1849 C Street, Nw  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

As the Department of the Interior (DOI) assesses its Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 funding priorities, I ask that you carefully review the West Virginia-based project described in the attached summary sheet that the late Senator Robert C. Byrd and I attempted to pursue through the FY 2011 appropriations process.

Now that a final FY 2011 budget is in place, I bring these projects to your attention with the strong hope that the Department will help to identify all applicable grant or contract opportunities under which these projects might qualify. In addition, I would appreciate suggestions on partnerships or other collaborative efforts that project sponsors might also consider to make sure that these important efforts do not perish. I would further appreciate your designating the appropriate agency personnel to work with my Appropriations Director, Ms. Suzanne Bentzel, (202) 224-0042, or [suzanne\\_bentzel@rockefeller.senate.gov](mailto:suzanne_bentzel@rockefeller.senate.gov), in this regard.

West Virginia is a place of wondrous scenic beauty and natural resources that have landed it the unofficial title as America's Outdoor Playground. The projects described in the attached summary sheet will enhance and protect West Virginia's breathtaking natural assets -- its national parks and rivers, forests, wildlife refuges -- as well as several of its historically rich sites.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my correspondence. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

## **FY 2011 Funding Needs for West Virginia-Interior Based Projects**

### **United States Fish & Wildlife Service**

**Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge:** \$1,010,000 is required for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for construction activities at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Canaan Valley, West Virginia. Funds would be used for the restoration of the pedestrian suspension bridge over the Blackwater River and to complete the construction of the Heart of the Highlands Trail.

**Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge:** \$750,000 is required for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for land acquisition at the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Canaan Valley, West Virginia. Funds would be used for the acquisition of sites that are within the authorized refuge boundaries for incorporation into the refuge.

**National Conservation Training Center:** \$1.45 million is required for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The funds would be used for addressing long-term maintenance needs and for costs associated with an increased student population.

**Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge:** \$800,000 is required for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for construction activities at the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Williamstown, West Virginia. Approximately 400 acres of unique aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial habitats have been lost due to erosion, and this funding would be used to control erosion for Paden Island.

**White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery (WSSNFH):** \$650,000 is required for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, for continuing the freshwater mussel research, recovery, and propagation program at this internationally recognized hatchery. Mussels are an important ecosystem health indicator for rivers and streams, and the WSSNFH leads the Nation's efforts in developing freshwater mussel propagation and culture technology for endangered species restoration.

**White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery:** \$200,000 is required for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for construction activities at the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Funds would be used for the construction of a temperature-controlled water storage system, filtration systems, and specialized fish-rearing systems for recovery of endangered freshwater mussels.

## National Park Service

**Harpers Ferry National Historical Park:** \$300,000 is required for the National Park Service for activities at the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Funds would be used to support activities associated with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Brown's raid on the Arsenal at Harpers Ferry.

**New River Gorge National River/Gauley River National Recreation Area:** \$2.8 million is required for the National Park Service for construction activities at the New River Gorge National River, Glen Jean, West Virginia, and the Gauley River National Recreation Area, Glen Jean, West Virginia. Funds would be used to complete the development of Camp Brookside; to repair the historic retaining wall on Rend Trail; and for a wastewater treatment system in South Thurmond that will connect several park-owned historic structures.

**New River Gorge National River:** \$4.138 million is required for the National Park Service for land acquisition at the New River Gorge National River, Glen Jean, West Virginia. Funds would be used for the acquisition of sites that would provide for additional recreational access and use of the park.

**Wheeling Park Commission:** \$50,000 is being sought by the Wheeling Park Commission, Wheeling, West Virginia, to help finance repairs to the exterior of the historic Oglebay Mansion House. The Mansion, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is comprised of period rooms that reflect the pioneer times to the Victorian era, and houses historic materials that tell the history of Wheeling.

**Jefferson County Preservation Society:** \$50,000 is being sought by the Jefferson County Preservation Society, Ranson, West Virginia, to help finance restoration of the Blessing/Webb House in Charles Town, West Virginia. This structure, which was once owned by John Blessing (a cook for John Brown while he was incarcerated in 1859), is the first stone house constructed by free Blacks in Jefferson County in the late 1820s. The house is part of the Charles Town Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **U.S. Forest Service**

**Monongahela National Forest:** \$1.58 million has been requested for the U.S. Forest Service for road construction at the Monongahela National Forest, Elkins, West Virginia.

**Wood Education and Resource Center:** \$500,000 has been requested for the U.S. Forest Service to support the continued operations of the Wood Education and Resource Center, Princeton, West Virginia. The center facilitates interaction and information exchange with the forest products industry to enhance opportunities for sustained forest products production in the eastern hardwood forest region of the country.

E30 2762 |

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 15, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We are writing to express our support of the TransWest Express Transmission Project (TWE Project), a nationally important energy project that will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, provide jobs, support economic development, and strengthen the nation's electric transmission system. We request that the Department of the Interior work to complete the Environmental Impact Statement process in a timely manner.

As you know, the TWE Project is a proposed 725-mile, 3,000 megawatt, 600 kV high-voltage direct current transmission system that will deliver wind energy from Wyoming to electric utilities in Arizona, Nevada and California. This transmission line will be one of the five largest transmission systems in the world and the second-largest in the United States. More than 60 percent of the proposed route is located on public lands. It also will boost the reliability and capacity of the entire Western Interconnection power grid, delivering system benefits to power users all across the west.

Demonstrating the significance and importance of the project, Western Area Power Administration, a power marketing agency within the U.S. Department of Energy, is pursuing a potential partnership with TransWest Express LLC, a privately held company, to construct, operate and maintain the transmission line.

The TWE Project's proposed route crosses four states, 15 counties and more than 17 field offices of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and traverses lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service. This route utilizes designated transmission corridors and parallels existing infrastructure, where possible to minimize environmental impacts. The TWE Project will help to achieve the policy goals set forth in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which directed DOI to seek approval by 2015 of at least 10,000 megawatts of non-hydropower renewable energy projects located on public lands. It also aligns with your more recent commitments to encourage and facilitate the rapid and responsible development of transmission and renewable energy projects on public lands.

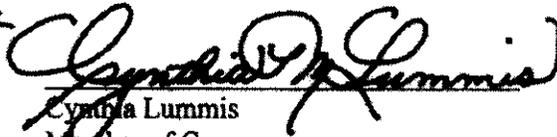
We are encouraged, given the complexity of the TWE Project, that the BLM is working on assembling a dedicated project team to coordinate the EIS review. As this team is assembled, we encourage the Department of the Interior to consider the importance of representation by local stakeholders, including elected officials and other interested groups, as an important part of a fair and transparent process. We urge you to continue to make this project one of your priorities and to provide the oversight necessary to ensure that the EIS is conducted in a manner that recognizes the authority and expertise of local stakeholders, and is completed as efficiently and expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,



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Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress  
Colorado's 3<sup>rd</sup> District



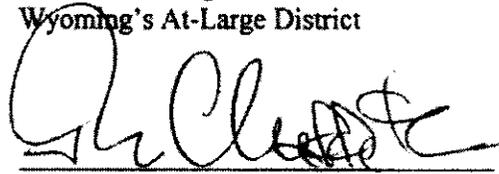
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Cynthia Lummis  
Member of Congress  
Wyoming's At-Large District



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Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress  
Utah's 1<sup>st</sup> District



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Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress  
Utah's 3<sup>rd</sup> District



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Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress  
Utah's 2<sup>nd</sup> District



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Shelley Berkley  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's 1<sup>st</sup> District

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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 26, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Mr. Jon Jarvis  
Director, National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar and Director Jarvis:

We are writing to urge the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to include three critical Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) in the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. Although the owners of these properties are willing sellers, the National Park Service needs to secure federal funds as soon as possible to acquire these properties before the owners contemplate development options.

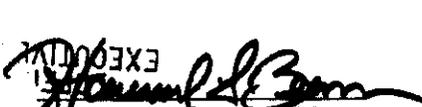
The President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget included \$3,750,000 to acquire 286 acres of pristine habitat in Zuma and Trancas Canyons in the Santa Monica Mountains. While Congress works towards passage of the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations bills, we want to call your attention to three important acquisitions that should be included in the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. The acquisitions include parcels near Malibu Creek and in Zuma and Trancas Canyons, as well as the Mansdorf property – the largest remaining privately owned stretch of coastline in the Santa Monica Mountains. All of these properties are included in the SMMNRA Land Protection Plan for priority acquisition due to their scenic, recreational and natural resource values.

Although there are many other competing requests in the Pacific West Region and throughout the country, you both know firsthand from your experience visiting the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area that there is an imminent threat of development and a critical need to preserve sensitive habitat and recreational trails in this treasured national park unit. Moreover, these lands are immediately accessible to millions of urban residents in Greater Los Angeles, most of who have never visited a national park unit.

We look forward to the Department's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget recommendations and working with the administration and Congress to support these important acquisitions in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
BRAD SHERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
HOWARD BERMAN  
Member of Congress

  
HENRY WAXMAN  
Member of Congress

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